

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230**



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**NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK (NNIN)
PROGRAM SOLICITATION NSF 03-519**

Dear Colleague:

NSF held an Informational Meeting about the NNIN competitions on January 30-31, 2003 at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel in Rosslyn, Virginia. We have posted on the NNIN web site (<http://www.eng.nsf.gov/nnin>) the meeting agenda, the presentations of NSF and outside speakers, the list of attendees with email addresses and links to posters presenting their facilities capabilities, and links to the archived webcast of the meeting. Specific questions that you may wish to address to NSF regarding the NNIN competition should be sent to NNINQA@nsf.gov

The NNIN competition is being supported by all NSF Directorates. We intend this to be an open competition for all academic institutions that is firmly anchored in the network concept, with the flexibility to grow or reconfigure as needs arise. There are exceptional capabilities, both large and small, at institutions in all regions of the country that can be brought into a proposed network. A network proposal should, as a whole, provide diverse and complementary capabilities to support user needs across the broad spectrum of nanoscale science and engineering domains. Individual sites may focus on particular subfields according to their specific capabilities and strengths.

NSF plans to support a single national network from this competition. We shall use an in-depth merit review process to evaluate the submissions that will include mail and panel review and site review of those proposals deemed by the panel as meritorious. Reviewers will consider the additional review criteria stated in the solicitation, such as the quality of the network structure and individual sites on a national level, the educational experiences afforded, and the plans for study of societal implications. Based on the specific capabilities and strengths identified during the review process, NSF may combine elements from more than one meritorious proposal to ensure development of a comprehensive network.

We understand that preparing, and becoming a part of, an integrated network proposal is a difficult task, yet we believe the program is important to the nation and that institutions should put their best efforts forward.

Sincerely,

Esin Gulari
Acting Assistant Director for Engineering